Proposed Synopsis

For

Ph.D. Degree

Faculty of Social Science (Economics)

L.N. Mithila University, Kameshwarnagar Darbhanga

-: Title of the Research:-

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF HORTICULTURE SECTOR IN BIHAR

Research Scholar

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1. TITLE OF THE RESEARCH:-

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF HORTICULTURE SECTOR IN BIHAR

2. STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM:

The cultivation of flowers, fruit, and vegetables in small plots using intensive methods of farming is known as horticulture. Horticulture contributes to health happiness and prosperity of the mankind. It is defined as an expensive art and science of study of garden plants. Horticulture is part of agriculture, which is concern with the garden crops. Thus, the horticulture means cultivation of garden crops. India and Bihar, with its wide variability of location, climate, soil and other agro-climatic conditions has good potential for growing a wide range of horticulture crops, such as vegetables, fruits and plantation crops. Horticulture has now become a one of the important economic activity of a large population in the world. Even in India, we talk largely about horticulture. Horticulture consists of several branches but fruit cultivation (pomology), vegetable cultivation (Olericulture) and flower cultivation (floriculture) are the major branches of horticulture. We need fruits, vegetables and flowers in our daily life. It is also known fact that India is the 2nd largest producers of fruits and vegetables in the world. However, our productivity is dismally low than several other countries of the world. It is because of horticulture sectors are encountered with several problems and to tickle these problems, several technologies need to be standardized by our scientists. Development in the field of Horticulture is important as this sector can generate additional employment opportunity and increase rural income. To provide remunerative prices to the farmers and also to

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provide substantial job opportunities amongst the local unemployed educated youths, the main objectives and thrust for development of horticulture is an expansion/diversification of areas under horticulture activities, emphasis on income generation crops like spices and mushroom and low volume high value fruits, stress on compact area plantation of orchids and development of marketing network for surplus produce.

Horticulture is an important segment of agriculture sector which contribute about one-fifth in the economy of agriculture and allied sectors. It is the fastest growing sector within agriculture that has increased and expands the economic prosperity that can provoked marked changes in the life styles and the consumption habits of the common people. There has been a perceptible change in the consumption pattern characterized by declining share of food grains and the increasing share of non-food grains items in the consumption baskets particularly fruits and vegetables as well as booming floriculture market is an evidence of the phenomenon that is expected to accelerate horticulture growth in Bihar as well as in the country. Consequently, horticulture is playing a greater role and has the importance within the agriculture sector and eventually in state as well as the national economy. In addition, there are tremendous opportunities to augment exports of horticulture commodities and products especially fruits and vegetables both raw and processed by way of strengthening existing markets as well as exploring fresh markets. Due to enormous potential of horticulture both on domestic and international front as an evident from burgeoning demand of horticulture commodities and products. It could become a key driver in stimulating agricultural growth that has been rather sluggish in the recent past. Potential advantages of horticultural framing in terms of yielding higher farm output and remunerative returns, is likely to encourage horticulture farming on a larger scale. Numerous policy and development initiatives including massive financial and technical support available in the horticulture sector is likely to provide a greater impetus to the process of

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horticultural development in the country. Higher horticulture growth within the crop husbandry is not only expected to push agricultural growth further but it is also expected to make substantial contribution in the national economy by unleashing substantial value addition through storage, processing, transportation and marketing of horticulture commodities and products.

In recent years, the farmers in Bihar have extended their farming practices to the commercialization of vegetables and fruits. Now, horticulture crops production has begun to more from traditional occupation and confines to commercial ventures and has attracted the professional farmers in the state. Thus, horticulture sector has become a dire need of bifurcated Bihar as a panacea for promoting also agro-business sustainability. With a view to encourage horticulture sector, a diagnostic study was conducted by IL & FS, on a "Vision Document 2025 on Public Private Partnership Basis", which reveals that there is a great potential for establishing food processing units in the state. Keeping in views such potentialities of horticulture sector in the economy of Bihar, this research work would be undertaken.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Review of related research is a fundamental prerequisite to actual planning and for the execution of any research work before embarking on making a fresh study. Information about the findings of various research studies get accumulated over a period of time in the form of books, encyclopaedias, journals, abstracts, thesis and other form of records. Review of literature based on horticulture has been discussed as follows:

Van Braun (1995) conducted studies separately on crop diversification and transformation from traditionally grown less remunerative crops to more remunerative crops and viewed as horticulture, floriculture & piciculture are in favour of more competitive and high value diversified is considered an important alternative to promote agro based industries by setting up more and more units of food processing. The emerging trends of agri-business and

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marketing of agricultural products would help to the agrarian economy in making appropriate policies to encourage small and marginal farmers in diversifying and commercializing agriculture, adding value to agricultural produce, generate employment, enhance income of farmers and create surplus for export of processed products."

Joshi & Gulati (2003) point out as "for small and marginal farmers, marketing of their products is main problem apart from credit and extension. In recent years, there has been some form of contract arrangements in several agricultural crops such as potatoes, tomatoes, onions, flowers, medicinal plants and fruits in agrarian economies of India like Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand & Bihar. There is a silent revolution in institutions regarding non-cereal foods, New production – market linkages in the food supply chain are : spot or open market transactions, agricultural cooperatives and contract farming."

Nayyar & Sen (1994), Chand and Jha (2001) and Sekhar (2004) made observations on scope of agricultural trading separately and found that one problem with trade was that volatility in domestic agricultural prices would be increased with growing demand of agro-based industries. Studies have shown that volatility in global prices is higher than domestic commodity prices. In an agrarian economy, lower output is normally accompanied by some price increase with liberalization; we had a situation of lower production of lower prices. This pattern reflected the effect of the growing integration of food grain cereals with commercial crops, resulting from trading of food processing commodities."

Rao (2005) conducted a study on 'Diversification to Hi-value Agriculture and Marketing and observed that "There has been diversification of Indian diets away from food grains to high value products like milk and meat products and vegetables and fruits. Since risk is high for diversification, necessary support in infrastructure and marketing are needed. Price policy should also encourage diversification. The Government of Bihar wants to have second green revolution

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by diversifying agriculture in crop sector and allied activities. To promote holistic growth of horticulture sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies, the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) was launched in the state during 10th plan and made a positive impact and further to be strengthened to improve productivity in horticulture sector."

Thakur & Jha (2009) conducted a survey across Bihar since 2006 and realized that if Agri-business project, aided by the Asian Development Bank is operated then all 41 projects at various stages of implementing the schemes of state horticultural mission (Bihar) would be able to invite the huge investment from private sector on PPP model. Actions initiated to develop food zone/integrated food zone project, one each in Muzaffarpur, Vaishali and Bhagalpur – Katihar regions have widened the scope of horticultural sector in Bihar."

It is right to mention that though a vast literature has developed on horticulture and economic growth in India, yet not a single research has come out, on the topic "Problems and prospects of horticulture sector in Bihar ". This study will be very useful for emerging generation who will interest to take part in research in this field.

4. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

Under such state of affairs of agrarian economy in Bihar, this research work would reiterate the justification of horticulture sector and would highlight on the fact that the horticulture sector would be proved a milestone to promote the ago-based industries in the state by keeping the following objectives into view:

- ❖ To examine the emerging trends of horticulture sector in Bihar.
- ❖ To analyze the Problems and prospects of horticulture sector in Bihar.
- ❖ To assess the implications of horticulture sector on diversification of agricultural economy of Bihar.

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- To evaluate the issues and policies relating to prospects of agro-based industries in Bihar.

5. HYPOTHESIS:

Proposed research work will testify the following Hypothesis:

- There are positive trends of horticulture production in Bihar.
- Horticulture sector play a significant role on diversification of agrarian economy of Bihar.
- Effective policies significantly enhance the growth and sustainability of Agro - based industries in Bihar.

6. METHODOLOGY & SOURCES OF DATA:

The present study will be descriptive and analytical in nature. It will be based on both Primary and Secondary data.

Collection of Data

Data will be collected from:

(a) Primary Data Sources:

Primary data sources will be collected through the Questionnaire.

(b) Secondary Data Sources:

The Secondary sources are Books, Journals/magazines, Book Review and articles on horticulture sector in India.

7. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY;

After bifurcation the natural endowment of present Bihar is essentially its fertile soil and abundant water resources. Thus it is not possible for Bihar's economy to develop without growth of its agriculture sector and further farmers here produce a large number of traditional crops which cannot be a sound base for proper growth and development of the economy of Bihar. At present, barely one-fifth of the GSDP of t he state originate from the traditional agriculture sector & because of such economic development; the state economy cannot

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generate the employment opportunities & raise the income of mass small & marginal farmers. In this context, the separate study on prospects of horticulture sector would be benefited for the economy of Bihar. On account of better quality of soil and availability of water, fruits and vegetables are generally grown extensively in Bihar, particularly inn Northern part of the state comprising Purnea, Katihar, Araria, Kishanganj, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur & Darbhanga. we will confident about that this research work would be proved a milestone in the flowing manner:

- A considerable scope would be found out in the area of promoting agro-based industries.
- The income of marginal & other farmers would be raised through proper marketing of horticultural products.
- Helpful to the rural youths in getting employment opportunities locally.
- State government, NGOs & NRB (Non-resident Bihar) would come forward to establish agro-based units on PPP basis.

8. PLAN OF WORK:

Proposed study will be divided in the following chapter:

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Review of Literature

Chapter 3: Data Sources and Methodology

Chapter 4: Profile of Agrarian Economy & Horticultural Sector in Bihar

Chapter 5: Emerging trends of Horticulture Sector & Agro-Based Industries in Bihar

Chapter 6: Problems and Prospects of Horticulture Sector in Bihar

Chapter 7: Government policy towards Horticulture Sector

Chapter 8: Conclusions & Suggestions

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